CMHC'S RESEARCH HOUSE FOR THE ENVIRONMENTALLY HYPERSENSITIVE

CMHC's Research House for the Environmentally Hypersensitive is on display at the CMHC National Office in Ottawa. The house is a fully functional modular (pre-manufactured) house, measuring 33 x 26 ft. with an area of 850 sq ft. This one-bedroom house on one level (no basement) has a spacious kitchen, large living room, full-size bath and a large utility room.

The house demonstrates innovative and at the same time cost-effective methods to achieve good air quality. The flooring is ceramic tiles throughout with radiant heating (hot water pipes). With the exception of the utility room which was painted with a low-odour paint, walls and ceilings are finished with veneer plaster and are not painted. White walls and large windows impart a bright and pleasant atmosphere. The kitchen cabinets and shelves were built of construction plywood that were laminated or sealed on all sides. Cabinet doors are birch or maple, with or without glass. Doors are standard hollow-core that received four coats of sealant. Trims are sealed basswood.

The house is very well insulated, and uses triple-pane clear glass windows in enamel-coated fibreglass frames. The heating and domestic hot water are supplied by an electric hot water tank. A specially designed ventilation system provides continuous air change and can filter and dehumidify the air. Because the heating is separate from the ventilation, the air flow is much less than forced air systems and consequently, dust and noise are less of a problem. The mechanical system is capable of filtering fine particles and gases. The filtration is unique in that the charcoal or other media for odour removal is used only when needed - saving on cost and maintenance. Additional features of the house include a work or entertainment cabinet that is exhausted, vented closets and a drying closet in lieu of a dryer. Electromagnetic fields inside the house were tested to be very low.

A document, **Research House for the Environmentally Hypersensitive: Description and Technical Details**, is available free of charge.

The Research House will be eventually sold at which time the purchaser will move it to a permanent location. If you think you will be interested, inform Peter Russell, Tel. (613) 748-2306 or Virginia Salares, Tel. (613) 748-2032 of your interest.

September, 1995